

October 9, 1996 PCT Meeting
EIR/EIS Update

Assessment Methodologies

Several efforts underway; methods to assess fish and wildlife impacts, development of a list of assessment variables and development of a draft tools report. Next fish assessment methods meeting is October 17. Next wildlife assessment meeting has not been set but, should wind up on schedule soon. A list of the overall proposed assessment variables is attached. We continue to work on our methods report and hope to have it out for your review soon.

There is a good deal of misunderstanding about the efforts of the program managers in assessing the effectiveness or success of their common programs and the assessment process for impact analysis. Certainly, the efforts by the various common program managers have some similarities to the impact assessment process but, they are primarily focused on evaluating the success of their program relative to CALFED solution principals and objectives rather than distinguishing between alternatives.

Existing Conditions/No Action Alternatives Assumptions

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 11. We'll be seeking the group's ok to hold the next meeting on October 22 rather than October 25. The group has grown to a sizable but still manageable number. We received concurrence on most assumptions we presented at the September 28 meeting but we have a few sticklers such as should the interim water quality control plan be part of existing conditions or not. We propose to continue to press forward with new assumptions each time we meet and try to work on some of the "stumblers" in between.

You should have received our report documenting the process we went through to identify no action alternative projects as well as projects that will be part of the cumulative impact assessment. Look forward to any comments you might have.

Affected Environment

We have sent out the Affected Environment reports for resources in the Delta and our looking for your comments by October 25. Last time I indicated that the next version would be out in November. We now believe we should wait until we have a better sense of alternatives so that we don't spend time writing and reading about resources we aren't going to impact. Expect to see the full technical appendices early next year.